



Laukkanen, J. A., Voutilainen, A., Kurl, S., Araújo, C. G. S., Jae, S. Y., & Kunutsor, S. K. (2020). Handgrip strength is inversely associated with fatal cardiovascular and all-cause mortality events: Handgrip strength and fatal outcomes. *Annals of Medicine*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07853890.2020.1748220>

Peer reviewed version

Link to published version (if available):
[10.1080/07853890.2020.1748220](https://doi.org/10.1080/07853890.2020.1748220)

[Link to publication record in Explore Bristol Research](#)
PDF-document

This is the author accepted manuscript (AAM). The final published version (version of record) is available online via Taylor & Francis at
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07853890.2020.1748220?journalCode=iann20> . Please refer to any applicable terms of use of the publisher.

University of Bristol - Explore Bristol Research

General rights

This document is made available in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite only the published version using the reference above. Full terms of use are available:
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/red/research-policy/pure/user-guides/ebr-terms/>

Handgrip strength is inversely associated with fatal cardiovascular and all-cause mortality events

Running Title: Handgrip strength and fatal outcomes

Jari A. Laukkanen^{a,b,c}, Ari Voutilainen^c, Sudhir Kurl^c, Claudio Gil S. Araujo^d, Sae Young Jae^{e,f}, Setor K. Kunutsor^{g,h}

^aFaculty of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland

^bDepartment of Medicine, Central Finland Health Care District, Jyväskylä, Finland

^cInstitute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland

^dExercise Medicine Clinic; CLINIMEX, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

^eDepartment of Sport Science, University of Seoul, Seoul, South Korea

^fGraduate School of Urban Public Health, University of Seoul, Seoul, Republic of Korea

^gNational Institute for Health Research Bristol Biomedical Research Centre, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

^hMusculoskeletal Research Unit, Translational Health Sciences, Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, Learning & Research Building (Level 1), Southmead Hospital, Bristol, BS10 5NB, UK

Corresponding author:

Jari A. Laukkanen, Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Jyväskylä, Jyväskylä, Finland
P.O. Box 35, 40014 Jyväskylä, Finland, Tel:+358408053478, E-mail: jariantero.laukkanen@uef.fi

ABSTRACT

Purpose: We aimed to assess the associations of handgrip strength (HS) with cardiovascular and all-cause mortality and whether adding data on HS to cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors is associated with improvement in CVD mortality prediction.

Design: Handgrip strength was assessed in a population-based sample of 861 participants aged 61-74 years at baseline. Relative HS was obtained by dividing the absolute value by body weight.

Results: During a median (interquartile range) follow-up of 17.3 (12.6-18.4) years, 116 fatal coronary heart diseases (CHDs), 195 fatal CVDs, and 412 all-cause mortality events occurred. On adjustment for several risk factors, the hazard ratios (95% CIs) for fatal CHD, fatal CVD, and all-cause mortality were 0.59 (0.37-0.95), 0.59 (0.41-0.86), and 0.66 (0.51-0.84) respectively comparing extreme tertiles of relative HS. Adding relative HS to a CVD mortality risk prediction model containing established risk factors did not improve discrimination or reclassification using Harrel's C-index (C-index change: 0.0034; $p=0.65$), integrated-discrimination-improvement (0.0059; $p=0.20$), and net-reclassification-improvement (-1.31%; $p=0.74$); however, there was a significant difference in -2 log likelihood ($p<0.001$).

Conclusion: Relative HS is inversely associated with CHD, CVD and all-cause mortality events. Adding relative HS to conventional risk factors improves CVD risk assessment using sensitive measures of discrimination.

Keywords handgrip strength; cardiovascular disease; mortality; risk prediction

KEY MESSAGES

- Handgrip strength assessment is simple, inexpensive and it takes only a few minutes to measure in clinical practice; however, its prognostic role for fatal cardiovascular outcomes on top of traditional risk factors in apparently healthy populations is uncertain.
- In a population-based prospective cohort study, good handgrip strength adjusted for body weight was associated with lower risk of fatal cardiovascular outcomes and the associations remained consistent across several clinically relevant subgroups.
- Handgrip strength may be a useful prognostic tool for fatal CHD and CVD events, in the general population.

Introduction

Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) account for over 17 million deaths per year, hence remaining the leading cause of mortality globally.(1) Though great strides have been made in the treatment and prevention of CVDs over the last few decades, deaths due to CVDs are increasing because of increased life expectancy of the population.(2) Physical activity is well established to prevent vascular disease as well as mortality.(3) Physical fitness, a strong predictor of future health status,(4) has cardiorespiratory fitness (CRF) and muscular fitness as its main components.(5) Cardiorespiratory and muscular fitness are becoming well recognized in the prevention of chronic disease including vascular disease and all-cause mortality.(4, 6-9) Muscular fitness comprises of muscular strength, muscular endurance and muscular power.(5) Among these components, it appears muscular strength is the most widely studied in terms of its relationship to health. Muscular strength is defined as the ability of a specific muscle or muscle group to generate force or torque.(5) Handgrip strength, commonly used as a typical measure of muscular strength, has been shown in several prospective studies to be inversely associated with CVD, cause-specific mortality and all-cause mortality outcomes.(10-19) However, majority of these studies were based in selected populations, included only male or female participants, or had short-term follow-up durations, which could potentially introduce biases such as reverse causation. The assessment of handgrip strength is particularly easy to measure, is a low-cost measurement tool, and takes only a few minutes to measure. Whether handgrip strength could be a useful prognostic tool for adverse clinical outcomes when added on the top of common risk factors in apparently healthy and aging populations is not well known. Given the uncertainty in the evidence, our primary aim was to assess the nature and magnitude of the associations of relative handgrip strength with the risk of fatal CHD and CVD events, and all-cause mortality using a population-based prospective cohort study. A secondary aim was to evaluate whether

addition of relative handgrip strength measurements to conventional cardiovascular risk factors could improve the prediction of CVD mortality.

Materials and methods

Study design and population

This report was performed in accordance to the STROBE (STrengthening the Reporting of OBservational studies in Epidemiology) guidelines for reporting observational studies in epidemiology (**Supplementary Table S1**).⁽²⁰⁾ The study cohort employed for this analysis was part of the Kuopio Ischemic Heart Disease (KIHD) risk factor Study, a prospective population-based cohort study designed to investigate potential risk factors for atherosclerotic CVD and other related chronic disease outcomes.⁽²¹⁾ The initial study participants comprised a representative sample of men recruited from the city of Kuopio and its surrounding rural communities in eastern Finland. These participants underwent re-examinations at 4 years, 11 years and 20 years after baseline. During the 11-year follow-up examination, women were invited to join the study. This cohort was employed for the current analysis and initially comprised 2358 invited participants (1007 men and 1351 women) who were aged 53 to 74 years at baseline.⁽²²⁾ Of the 2072 participants found to be potentially eligible, 193 did not agree to participate, 66 did not respond to the invitation and 39 declined to provide informed consent, which left 1774 participants.⁽²²⁾ Baseline examinations were conducted from March 1998 to December 2001.⁽²²⁾ The current analysis included 861 men and women who had complete information on handgrip strength, relevant covariates, and specified outcomes (**Supplementary Table S2**). The study protocol was approved by Research Ethics Committee of the University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland.

Assessment of handgrip strength and relevant risk markers

Handgrip strength was measured by a hand dynamometer (Martin-Balloon-Vigorimeter; Gebrüder Martin, Tuttlingen, Germany). Measurements were taken with the subjects standing in upright position and their arms parallel to their body. Two measurements were taken for the dominant hand and the mean of both values was used for analysis. One-minute resting gap was given between both handgrip measurements. To minimize the effect of body weight on the magnitude of handgrip strength, values of handgrip strength were then divided by weight in kilograms to yield relative handgrip strength (in kg). The dynamometers were calibrated at the beginning of each testing. Blood sample collection procedures, assessment of lifestyle characteristics and physical measures, and measurement of blood-based markers have been described in detail in previous reports.(23) Before blood collection, participants fasted overnight and abstained from drinking alcohol for at least 3 days and from smoking for at least 12 hours. Blood lipids including total cholesterol and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C) were measured enzymatically (Boehringer Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany) from fresh serum samples after combined ultracentrifugation and precipitation.(24) Fasting plasma glucose was estimated by the glucose dehydrogenase method (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) after protein precipitation by trichloroacetic acid.(24) Serum high sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP) measurements were made with an immunometric assay (Immulate High Sensitivity C-Reactive Protein Assay; DPC, Los Angeles, CA, USA). Resting blood pressure was measured between 8 and 10 a.m. using a random-zero sphygmomanometer (Hawksley, UK) after 5 and 10 minutes of rest in a seated position.(25) Self-administered questionnaires were used to assess baseline socio-demographic and lifestyle characteristics, prevalent medical conditions and use of medications.(26) The energy expenditure of physical activity was assessed from a validated 12-month leisure-time physical activity questionnaire.(27) This detailed quantitative questionnaire deals with the most common leisure-time physical activities (LTPAs) of

middle-aged Finnish men. For the type of physical activity performed, participants were asked to document the frequency (number of sessions per month), average duration (hours and minutes per session) and intensity.(28) Energy expenditure was measured for each physical activity by multiplying the metabolic index of activity (in metabolic equivalent*hour/week) by body weight in kilograms. Body mass index (BMI) was calculated by dividing weight measured in kilograms by the square of height in meters.

Ascertainment of outcomes

Outcomes evaluated included fatal CHD and CVD outcomes as well as all-cause mortality. We included all deaths that occurred from study enrollment through to 31st December 2017. Participants are under continuous annual surveillance for the occurrence of new CVD events, which include incident cases and deaths. There were no losses to follow-up. Information on outcomes was ascertained by computerized data linkage to the Finnish national hospital discharge registry and death certificate registers. Other sources of information were based on review of all available hospital records, questionnaires administered to health workers, wards of healthcare centres or hospitals, interviews with informants and medico-legal reports. Coronary heart disease and CVD deaths were coded using the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10)*, codes. All-cause mortality outcomes comprised of any deaths including CVD and CHD deaths. All documents were checked in detail by two physicians. The Independent Events Committee of the KIHHD study, blinded to clinical data, performed classification of all outcomes.

Statistical analysis

Baseline characteristics were presented as means (standard deviation, SD) or medians (interquartile range, IQR) for continuous variables and percentages for categorical variables using descriptive analyses. Age-

and sex-adjusted partial correlation coefficients were estimated to assess the cross-sectional associations of relative handgrip strength with several risk markers. Hazard ratios (HRs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for fatal CHD and CVD and all-cause mortality were calculated using Cox proportional hazard models after confirmation of no major departure from the proportionality of hazards assumptions using Schoenfeld residuals. The shape of the relationship between relative handgrip strength and each outcome was assessed by calculating HRs within quartiles of baseline relative handgrip strength, which were then plotted against mean values of relative handgrip strength within each quartile. Floating variances were used to calculate 95% CIs for the log hazard ratio in each group (including the reference group), which allowed for comparisons across the groups irrespective of the arbitrarily chosen reference category (bottom quartile).(29) We modeled relative handgrip strength as both continuous [per standard deviation (SD) increase] and categorical (tertiles) exposures; given the relatively low sample size, tertile cutoffs were employed for the assessment of associations to ensure adequate power in each exposure category. Hazard ratios were adjusted for in two models: (i) age and sex and (ii) plus systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL-C, smoking status, prevalent CHD history of diabetes mellitus, resting heart rate, and energy expenditure of total LTPA. Subgroup analyses were performed using tests of interaction to assess statistical evidence of any differences in hazard ratios across levels/categories of pre-specified individual level characteristics. To minimize biases due to reverse causation, sensitivity analysis excluded the first two years of follow-up.

To evaluate whether adding information on relative handgrip strength to conventional cardiovascular risk factors would be associated with an improvement in CVD mortality risk prediction and if relative handgrip strength helps to correctly classify participants into predicted CVD risk categories, we calculated measures of discrimination for censored time-to-event data (Harrell's C-index (30)) and reclassification.(31, 32) To investigate the change in C-index on the addition of relative handgrip

strength, two CVD mortality risk prediction models were fitted: one model based on traditional risk factors (i.e., age, SBP, history of diabetes, total cholesterol, HDL-C, and smoking) included in well-known CVD risk algorithms (such as the Framingham Risk Score (FRS)(33) and the Pooled Cohort equations(34)) and the second model containing the traditional risk factors plus relative handgrip strength. Reclassification was assessed using the net-reclassification-improvement (NRI)(31, 32) and integrated-discrimination-improvement (IDI)(31) by comparing the model containing conventional risk factors to the predicted risk from the model containing conventional risk factors plus relative handgrip strength. Reclassification analysis was based on predicted 10-year CVD mortality risk categories of low ($< 1\%$), intermediate (1 to $< 5\%$), and high ($\geq 5\%$) risk as previously reported.(35) Finally, we calculated the integrated discrimination improvement (IDI), which integrates the NRI over all possible cutoffs of predicted risk and mathematically corresponds to the difference in discrimination slopes of the 2 models in comparison.(31) Given that Harrell's C-index is based on ranks rather than on continuous data, it can be insensitive in detecting differences.(36, 37) To avoid discarding potential biomarkers that can be used in risk prediction, sensitive risk discrimination methods such as the -2 log likelihood test (likelihood ratio test) have been recommended.(36, 37) Therefore, in addition to Harrel's C-index, we tested for differences in the -2 log likelihood of prediction models with and without inclusion of calprotectin. All statistical analyses were conducted using Stata version MP 16 (Stata Corp, College Station, Texas).

Results

Baseline characteristics and correlates of handgrip strength

The mean (SD) age of study participants at baseline was 69 (3) years and 47.3% comprised of males. The mean (SD) value of relative handgrip strength at baseline was 1.03 (0.34) kpa/kg (**Table 1**). Weak to moderate inverse correlations were observed between relative handgrip strength and age, BMI, fasting

plasma glucose and hsCRP. Relative handgrip strength was weakly and positively correlated with HDL-C. During a median (IQR) follow-up of 17.3 (12.6-18.4) years (13,055 person-years at risk), a total of 116 fatal CHDs, 195 fatal CVDs, and 412 all-cause mortality events were recorded.

Relative handgrip strength and risk of outcome events

In analyses adjusted for several established and emerging risk factors (age, sex, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL-C, smoking status, prevalent CHD history of diabetes mellitus, resting heart rate, and energy expenditure of total LTPA), relative handgrip strength was continually and inversely associated with fatal CHD, fatal CVD, and all-cause mortality, and these were potentially consistent with curvilinear shapes (**Figure 1**). **Table 2** shows the associations of relative handgrip strength with each outcome. The age- and sex-adjusted HRs (95% CIs) per 1 SD increase in relative handgrip strength for fatal CHD, fatal CVD, and all-cause mortality were 0.61 (0.46-0.79), 0.67 (0.54-0.82), and 0.79 (0.69-0.91) respectively. These were only minimally attenuated to 0.65 (0.49-0.85), 0.69 (0.56-0.86), and 0.81 (0.70-0.93) respectively after adjustment for established and emerging risk factors. In analyses that compared the top versus bottom thirds of relative handgrip strength values, the age- and sex-adjusted HRs (95% CIs) for fatal CHD, fatal CVD, and all-cause mortality were 0.51 (0.32-0.83), 0.55 (0.38-0.79), and 0.64 (0.50-0.82) respectively. On multivariable adjustment, the corresponding HRs (95% CIs) were 0.59 (0.37-0.95), 0.59 (0.41-0.86), and 0.66 (0.51-0.84) respectively. The associations did not vary significantly by levels or categories of several clinically relevant characteristics (**Figures 2-4**). The associations of relative handgrip strength with outcomes remained consistent in analyses that excluded the first two years of follow-up (**Supplementary Table S3**).

Handgrip strength and CVD mortality risk prediction

A CVD mortality risk prediction model containing conventional risk factors (age, SBP, history of diabetes, total cholesterol, HDL-C, and smoking) yielded a C-index of 0.7202 (95% CI: 0.6838 to 0.7566; $p < 0.001$). On addition of information on relative handgrip strength to this prognostic model, there was a non-significant increase in the C-index by 0.0034 (95% CI: -0.01128 to 0.0181; $p = 0.65$). When investigating differences in the -2 log likelihood of the risk score with and without inclusion of handgrip strength, the -2 log likelihood was significantly improved on addition of information on handgrip strength to the model (p for comparison < 0.001). There was no significant improvement in the classification of participants into predicted 10-year CVD mortality risk categories (NRI: -1.31%, -8.90 to 6.27%; $p = 0.74$). The IDI was 0.0058 (-0.0031 to 0.0148; $p = 0.20$).

Discussion

Based on a general population sample of Finnish men and women, the current findings show that relative handgrip strength is continuously and inversely associated with the risk of fatal CHD and CVD, and all-cause mortality in analyses adjusted for several established and emerging cardiovascular risk factors. There were mostly weak to modest inverse correlations of relative handgrip strength with several cardiovascular risk markers. The associations of relative handgrip strength with outcomes remained generally similar across several clinically relevant subgroups. With regard to assessment of the clinical value of handgrip strength, the addition of information on relative handgrip strength to a risk model containing traditional risk factors did not improve discrimination of CVD mortality risk using Harrell's C-index; however, there was a significant improvement on using the -2 log likelihood method, a more sensitive measure when evaluating the added predictive value of a new measurement

The inverse associations demonstrated between handgrip strength (an easily available objective and reproducible measure in clinical practice) and vascular mortality outcomes are consistent with previous findings on this topic.(10-14) ~~It has been suggested that~~ Hand grip strength may enhance risk prediction for all-cause mortality on top of the risk prediction seen with age or sex.(38, 39) A recent study also showed that handgrip strength improved the prediction ability of all-cause mortality and cardiovascular mortality, using an office based risk score comprising of common risk factors such as age, sex, diabetes, body mass index, systolic blood pressure, and smoking.(40) However, none of these studies have shown whether the addition of handgrip strength to an established CVD risk score, including age, SBP, history of diabetes, total cholesterol, HDL-C, and smoking, improves risk prediction accuracy of fatal cardiovascular outcomes. A recent UK Biobank study proposed in population-based screening settings where demanding physical fitness assessment tools may not be feasible, the measurement of handgrip strength may add clinical utility over existing risk prediction scores.(40) Earlier findings from the Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study showed that grip strength has a stronger association with cardiovascular mortality than with incident CVD, with an effect-size that was twice as large for cardiovascular death as for CVD.(16) This finding implies that low hand grip strength is associated with increased susceptibility to cardiovascular mortality especially in people who may develop chronic CVDs. However, a population-based study among participants from Lausanne (CoLaus) suggested that low hand grip strength was not related to incident cardiovascular events and overall mortality after multivariate adjustment.(41)

Cardiorespiratory fitness largely reflects functional status,(42-44) whereas handgrip strength is a measure of upper body (arms) muscle strength. Though ~~it has been suggested that~~ handgrip strength may be a proxy for overall muscle strength, it has been recently shown that it cannot accurately measure all other muscle groups strength.(45) However, handgrip strength is correlated with leg strength, and thus

provides a valid index of overall limb muscle strength. There is some evidence to suggest that resistance muscle training interventions can increase in glycolytic capacity and up-regulate insulin action and capacity for glucose utilization in muscles.(46) Structured resistance training promotes muscle function and alleviate the levels of cardiometabolic risk factors.(46) There is growing evidence that objective measures of physical performance such as handgrip strength, sitting-rising and standing balance tests not only characterize physical capability but also act as markers of general health status.(47) Handgrip strength decrease is also an indicator of frailty and age-associated loss of muscle mass(17) which appears to be inevitable and is likely to be the most significant contributing factor to the decline in muscle strength. Frailty is usually quantified by the degree of impairment in functional reserve across multiple organ systems and is often associated with fatigue, reduced muscle strength, and high susceptibility to chronic disease. In addition, associations between these measures of frailty and functional capacity (muscle strength) and cause specific mortality outcomes, may help to clarify the pathways underlying the associations between muscle fitness and CVDs. The muscle is a paracrine and exocrine organ. Myokines may act in autocrine, paracrine, and endocrine manner and regulate several processes associated with physical frailty.(48, 49) The release of myokines from skeletal muscle preserves or augments cardiovascular function. Increased muscle strength may provide capabilities for more active life-styles that are related to a lower CVD risk. Elucidating the proposed biological mechanistic pathways between poorer functional capacity such muscle strength and fatal CVD events may help in the development of more effective muscle training interventions. The assessment of grip strength can be recommended as a stand-alone measurement or as a component of measurements for identifying older adults at risk of poor health status.(17)

Clinical implications

Findings from our risk prediction analysis using the more sensitive -2 log likelihood method shows that handgrip strength urine augments CVD mortality risk prediction beyond that of traditional risk factors, and the observation of a graded association suggests that handgrip strength is potentially suitable for population-level risk assessment. Handgrip strength may be a potential risk assessment tool in general or specialized clinical setting to identify patients at high risk for worse outcomes, but more evaluation is needed. Handgrip strength, as a predictive biomarker of specific outcomes, can be improved through regular resistance training to improve and maintain muscular fitness.

Strengths and limitations

Although previous prospective cohort studies have investigated the associations of handgrip strength with fatal vascular outcomes, this is the first prospective evaluation of the associations between relative handgrip strength and the risk of cardiovascular and all-cause mortality outcomes as the investigation of the potential utility of relative handgrip strength for CVD mortality risk prediction assessment. The cohort had a long follow-up period and no losses to follow-up were recorded, given that study participants undergo annual monitoring and outcomes are checked using well-linked established databases.(7, 50) The sample was a nationally representative population-based cohort of middle-aged to elderly Caucasian men and women, which makes it possible to generalize the results in Northern European populations. Because body size is a key factor that explains muscle strength results, we used body weight adjusted values as a main handgrip strength exposure. We employed comprehensive analyses which included adjustment for several lifestyle and biological markers with underlying disease status, testing for effect modification by several relevant clinical subgroups, and accounting for reverse causation bias. Our risk prediction analyses used sensitive measures such as the -2 log likelihood. Despite the several strengths of this study

and analyses, there are limitations which merit mention. The findings were based on older men and women, hence cannot be generalised to other age groups. The addition of information on relative handgrip strength to the risk model did not improve CVD mortality risk discrimination using Harrell's C-index and this could be attributed to the fact that changes in C-index are largely dependent on the risk model, follow-up time and outcome events that have been used. Furthermore, Harrell's C-index can be insensitive in detecting differences because it is based on ranks.(36, 37) Our assessment of handgrip strength did not employ testing procedures recommended by the American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT)(51) or the Southampton protocol,(52) which could have introduced biases in our findings. Handgrip strength assessment was conducted in accordance with the KIID study protocol and utilised the Martin-Balloon-Vigorimeter, which was considered to be appropriate for the study population. Evidence suggests the Martin Vigorimeter is a reliable and practical tool for assessing handgrip strength in the elderly population.(53) The substantial heterogeneity between the handgrip strength test protocols used in studies on hand grip strength and outcome studies, has created difficulties in drawing comparative and consistent conclusions.(54) Though several potential confounders were taken into account, there is a potential for residual confounding, which is quite likely for observational study designs. Though we took into account the level of physical activity in our analyses, data on objectively assessed CRF was not available for all participants and hence could not be used. The observed associations could be underestimates because of the inability to correct for regression dilution bias, as the associations were based on baseline assessments of relative handgrip strength. Due to aging, disease, and changes in health habits, physical fitness among individuals could have changed.

Conclusions

This population-based prospective study shows inverse and continuous associations of relative handgrip strength with cardiovascular and all-cause mortality outcomes. Adding relative handgrip strength to conventional risk factors improves CVD mortality risk assessment using more sensitive measures of discrimination. The use of handgrip strength as a predictor of cardiovascular health status and outcomes requires further investigation. It would also be relevant to ascertain if physical exercise and specific muscle strength training with other life-style interventions would decrease frailty and the risk of CVD events.

Acknowledgments

We thank the staff of the Kuopio Research Institute of Exercise Medicine and the Research Institute of Public Health and University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland for the data collection in the study.

Disclosure of interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest

Funding

This work has been supported in part by grants from the Finnish Foundation for Cardiovascular Research, Helsinki, Finland. Dr. Setor K. Kunutsor acknowledges support from the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Bristol. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author and not necessarily those of the NHS, the National Institute for Health Research or the Department of Health. The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish or preparation of the manuscript.

References

1. Bonow RO, Mann DL, Zipes DP, Libby P. Braunwald's Heart Disease: A Textbook of Cardiovascular Medicine. 9th ed ed: Elsevier; 2012.
2. Lozano R, Naghavi M, Foreman K, Lim S, Shibuya K, Aboyans V, et al. Global and regional mortality from 235 causes of death for 20 age groups in 1990 and 2010: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010. *Lancet*. 2012;380(9859):2095-128.
3. Lear SA, Hu W, Rangarajan S, Gasevic D, Leong D, Iqbal R, et al. The effect of physical activity on mortality and cardiovascular disease in 130 000 people from 17 high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries: the PURE study. *Lancet*. 2017;390(10113):2643-54.
4. Kodama S, Saito K, Tanaka S, Maki M, Yachi Y, Asumi M, et al. Cardiorespiratory fitness as a quantitative predictor of all-cause mortality and cardiovascular events in healthy men and women: a meta-analysis. *Jama*. 2009;301(19):2024-35.
5. Artero EG, Lee DC, Lavie CJ, Espana-Romero V, Sui X, Church TS, et al. Effects of muscular strength on cardiovascular risk factors and prognosis. *J Cardiopulm Rehabil Prev*. 2012;32(6):351-8.
6. Hagnas MJ, Kurl S, Rauramaa R, Lakka TA, Makikallio TH, Savonen K, et al. The value of cardiorespiratory fitness and exercise-induced ST segment depression in predicting death from coronary heart disease. *Int J Cardiol*. 2015;196:31-3.
7. Laukkanen JA, Makikallio TH, Rauramaa R, Kiviniemi V, Ronkainen K, Kurl S. Cardiorespiratory fitness is related to the risk of sudden cardiac death: a population-based follow-up study. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2010;56(18):1476-83.
8. Wolfe RR. The underappreciated role of muscle in health and disease. *Am J Clin Nutr*. 2006;84(3):475-82.
9. Stump CS, Henriksen EJ, Wei Y, Sowers JR. The metabolic syndrome: role of skeletal muscle metabolism. *Annals of medicine*. 2006;38(6):389-402.
10. Rolland Y, Lauwers-Cances V, Cesari M, Vellas B, Pahor M, Grandjean H. Physical performance measures as predictors of mortality in a cohort of community-dwelling older French women. *Eur J Epidemiol*. 2006;21(2):113-22.
11. Sasaki H, Kasagi F, Yamada M, Fujita S. Grip strength predicts cause-specific mortality in middle-aged and elderly persons. *Am J Med*. 2007;120(4):337-42.
12. Ruiz JR, Sui X, Lobelo F, Morrow JR, Jr., Jackson AW, Sjostrom M, et al. Association between muscular strength and mortality in men: prospective cohort study. *BMJ*. 2008;337:a439.

13. Celis-Morales CA, Lyall DM, Anderson J, Iliodromiti S, Fan Y, Ntut UE, et al. The association between physical activity and risk of mortality is modulated by grip strength and cardiorespiratory fitness: evidence from 498 135 UK-Biobank participants. *Eur Heart J*. 2017;38(2):116-22.
14. Cooper R, Kuh D, Hardy R, Mortality Review G, Falcon, Teams HAS. Objectively measured physical capability levels and mortality: systematic review and meta-analysis. *BMJ*. 2010;341:c4467.
15. Zaccardi F, Franks PW, Dudbridge F, Davies MJ, Khunti K, Yates T. Mortality risk comparing walking pace to handgrip strength and a healthy lifestyle: A UK Biobank study. *Eur J Prev Cardiol*. 2019;2047487319885041.
16. Leong DP, Teo KK, Rangarajan S, Lopez-Jaramillo P, Avezum A, Jr., Orlandini A, et al. Prognostic value of grip strength: findings from the Prospective Urban Rural Epidemiology (PURE) study. *Lancet*. 2015;386(9990):266-73.
17. Bohannon RW. Grip Strength: An Indispensable Biomarker For Older Adults. *Clin Interv Aging*. 2019;14:1681-91.
18. Karlsen T, Nauman J, Dalen H, Langhammer A, Wisloff U. The Combined Association of Skeletal Muscle Strength and Physical Activity on Mortality in Older Women: The HUNT2 Study. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2017;92(5):710-8.
19. Farmer RE, Mathur R, Schmidt AF, Bhaskaran K, Fatemifar G, Eastwood SV, et al. Associations Between Measures of Sarcopenic Obesity and Risk of Cardiovascular Disease and Mortality: A Cohort Study and Mendelian Randomization Analysis Using the UK Biobank. *Journal of the American Heart Association*. 2019;8(13):e011638.
20. von Elm E, Altman DG, Egger M, Pocock SJ, Gotsche PC, Vandenbroucke JP. The Strengthening the Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) statement: guidelines for reporting observational studies. *Journal of clinical epidemiology*. 2008;61(4):344-9.
21. Laukkanen T, Khan H, Zaccardi F, Laukkanen JA. Association between sauna bathing and fatal cardiovascular and all-cause mortality events. *JAMA internal medicine*. 2015;175(4):542-8.
22. Kunutsor SK, Blom AW, Whitehouse MR, Kehoe PG, Laukkanen JA. Renin-angiotensin system inhibitors and risk of fractures: a prospective cohort study and meta-analysis of published observational cohort studies. *Eur J Epidemiol*. 2017;32(11):947-59.
23. Kunutsor SK, Khan H, Zaccardi F, Laukkanen T, Willeit P, Laukkanen JA. Sauna bathing reduces the risk of stroke in Finnish men and women: A prospective cohort study. *Neurology*. 2018;90(22):e1937-e44.
24. Kunutsor SK, Khan H, Nyyssönen K, Laukkanen JA. Lipoprotein(a) and risk of sudden cardiac death in middle-aged Finnish men: A new prospective cohort study. *Int J Cardiol*. 2016;220:718-25.
25. Everson SA, Kaplan GA, Goldberg DE, Salonen JT. Anticipatory blood pressure response to exercise predicts future high blood pressure in middle-aged men. *Hypertension*. 1996;27(5):1059-64.

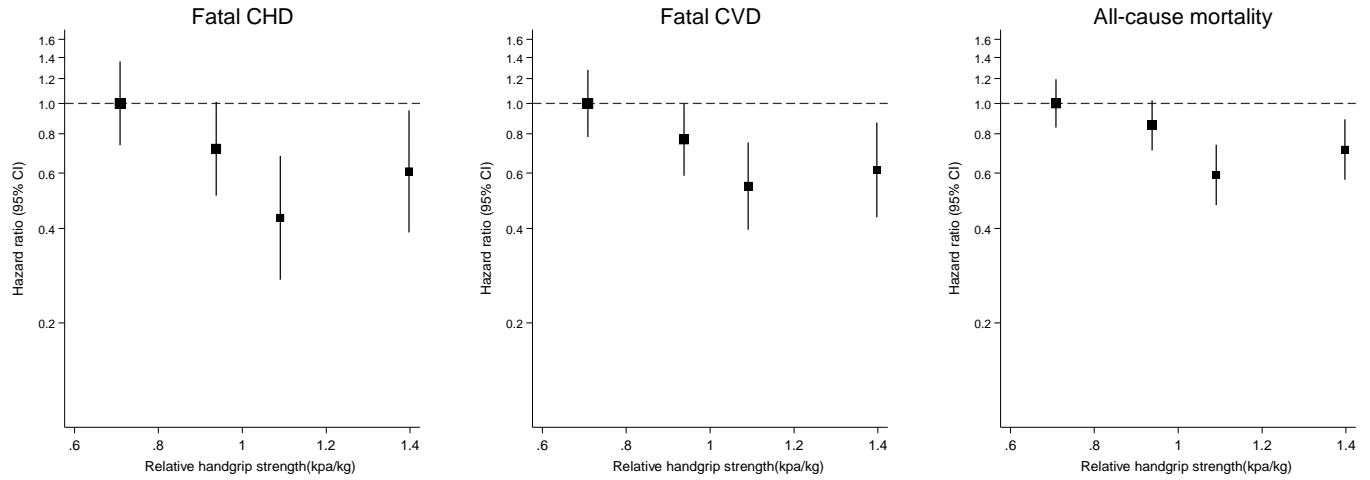
26. Lynch JW, Kaplan GA, Cohen RD, Kauhanen J, Wilson TW, Smith NL, et al. Childhood and adult socioeconomic status as predictors of mortality in Finland. *Lancet*. 1994;343(8896):524-7.
27. Laukkanen JA, Laaksonen D, Lakka TA, Savonen K, Rauramaa R, Makikallio T, et al. Determinants of cardiorespiratory fitness in men aged 42 to 60 years with and without cardiovascular disease. *Am J Cardiol*. 2009;103(11):1598-604.
28. Lakka TA, Salonen JT. Intra-person variability of various physical activity assessments in the Kuopio Ischaemic Heart Disease Risk Factor Study. *Int J Epidemiol*. 1992;21(3):467-72.
29. Kunutsor SK, Bakker SJ, James RW, Dullaart RP. Serum paraoxonase-1 activity and risk of incident cardiovascular disease: The PREVEND study and meta-analysis of prospective population studies. *Atherosclerosis*. 2015;245:143-54.
30. Harrell FE, Jr., Lee KL, Mark DB. Multivariable prognostic models: issues in developing models, evaluating assumptions and adequacy, and measuring and reducing errors. *Stat Med*. 1996;15(4):361-87.
31. Pencina MJ, D'Agostino RB, Sr., D'Agostino RB, Jr., Vasan RS. Evaluating the added predictive ability of a new marker: from area under the ROC curve to reclassification and beyond. *Stat Med*. 2008;27(2):157-72; discussion 207-12.
32. Pencina MJ, D'Agostino RB, Sr., Steyerberg EW. Extensions of net reclassification improvement calculations to measure usefulness of new biomarkers. *Statistics in Medicine*. 2011;30(1):11-21.
33. D'Agostino RB, Sr., Vasan RS, Pencina MJ, Wolf PA, Cobain M, Massaro JM, et al. General cardiovascular risk profile for use in primary care: the Framingham Heart Study. *Circulation*. 2008;117(6):743-53.
34. Stone NJ, Robinson JG, Lichtenstein AH, Bairey Merz CN, Blum CB, Eckel RH, et al. 2013 ACC/AHA guideline on the treatment of blood cholesterol to reduce atherosclerotic cardiovascular risk in adults: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2014;63(25 Pt B):2889-934.
35. Gupta S, Rohatgi A, Ayers CR, Willis BL, Haskell WL, Khera A, et al. Cardiorespiratory fitness and classification of risk of cardiovascular disease mortality. *Circulation*. 2011;123(13):1377-83.
36. Cook NR. Use and misuse of the receiver operating characteristic curve in risk prediction. *Circulation*. 2007;115(7):928-35.
37. Harrell FEJ. Regression modeling strategies. Anonymous, editor. New York: Springer; 2001.
38. Cooper R, Strand BH, Hardy R, Patel KV, Kuh D. Physical capability in mid-life and survival over 13 years of follow-up: British birth cohort study. *BMJ*. 2014;348:g2219.
39. Ganna A, Ingelsson E. 5 year mortality predictors in 498,103 UK Biobank participants: a prospective population-based study. *Lancet*. 2015;386(9993):533-40.

40. Celis-Morales CA, Welsh P, Lyall DM, Steell L, Petermann F, Anderson J, et al. Associations of grip strength with cardiovascular, respiratory, and cancer outcomes and all cause mortality: prospective cohort study of half a million UK Biobank participants. *BMJ*. 2018;361:k1651.
41. Gubelmann C, Vollenweider P, Marques-Vidal P. No association between grip strength and cardiovascular risk: The CoLaus population-based study. *Int J Cardiol*. 2017;236:478-82.
42. Laukkanen JA, Araujo CGS, Kurl S, Khan H, Jae SY, Guazzi M, et al. Relative peak exercise oxygen pulse is related to sudden cardiac death, cardiovascular and all-cause mortality in middle-aged men. *Eur J Prev Cardiol*. 2018;25(7):772-82.
43. Salokari E, Laukkanen JA, Lehtimäki T, Kurl S, Kunutsor S, Zaccardi F, et al. The Duke treadmill score with bicycle ergometer: Exercise capacity is the most important predictor of cardiovascular mortality. *Eur J Prev Cardiol*. 2019;26(2):199-207.
44. Laukkanen JA, Zaccardi F, Khan H, Kurl S, Jae SY, Rauramaa R. Long-term Change in Cardiorespiratory Fitness and All-Cause Mortality: A Population-Based Follow-up Study. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2016;91(9):1183-8.
45. Yeung SSY, Reijnierse EM, Trappenburg MC, Hogrel JY, McPhee JS, Piasecki M, et al. Handgrip Strength Cannot Be Assumed a Proxy for Overall Muscle Strength. *J Am Med Dir Assoc*. 2018;19(8):703-9.
46. Hsieh PL, Tseng CH, Tseng YJ, Yang WS. Resistance Training Improves Muscle Function and Cardiometabolic Risks But Not Quality of Life in Older People With Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: A Randomized Controlled Trial. *J Geriatr Phys Ther*. 2018;41(2):65-76.
47. Araujo CGS, Castro CLB, Franca JFC, Araujo DS. Sitting-rising test: Sex- and age-reference scores derived from 6141 adults. *Eur J Prev Cardiol*. 2019;2047487319847004.
48. Coelho-Junior HJ, Picca A, Calvani R, Uchida MC, Marzetti E. If my muscle could talk: Myokines as a biomarker of frailty. *Experimental gerontology*. 2019;127:110715.
49. Giudice J, Taylor JM. Muscle as a paracrine and endocrine organ. *Curr Opin Pharmacol*. 2017;34:49-55.
50. Laukkanen JA, Kurl S, Salonen R, Rauramaa R, Salonen JT. The predictive value of cardiorespiratory fitness for cardiovascular events in men with various risk profiles: a prospective population-based cohort study. *European Heart Journal*. 2004;25(16):1428-37.
51. MacDermid J, Solomon G, Fedorczyk J, Valdes K. Clinical assessment recommendations 3rd edition: Impairment-based conditions. American Society of Hand Therapists; 2015.
52. Roberts HC, Denison HJ, Martin HJ, Patel HP, Syddall H, Cooper C, et al. A review of the measurement of grip strength in clinical and epidemiological studies: towards a standardised approach. *Age Ageing*. 2011;40(4):423-9.

53. Sipers WM, Verdijk LB, Sipers SJ, Schols JM, van Loon LJ. The Martin Vigorimeter Represents a Reliable and More Practical Tool Than the Jamar Dynamometer to Assess Handgrip Strength in the Geriatric Patient. *J Am Med Dir Assoc.* 2016;17(5):466 e1-7.
54. Sousa-Santos AR, Amaral TF. Differences in handgrip strength protocols to identify sarcopenia and frailty - a systematic review. *BMC Geriatr.* 2017;17(1):238.

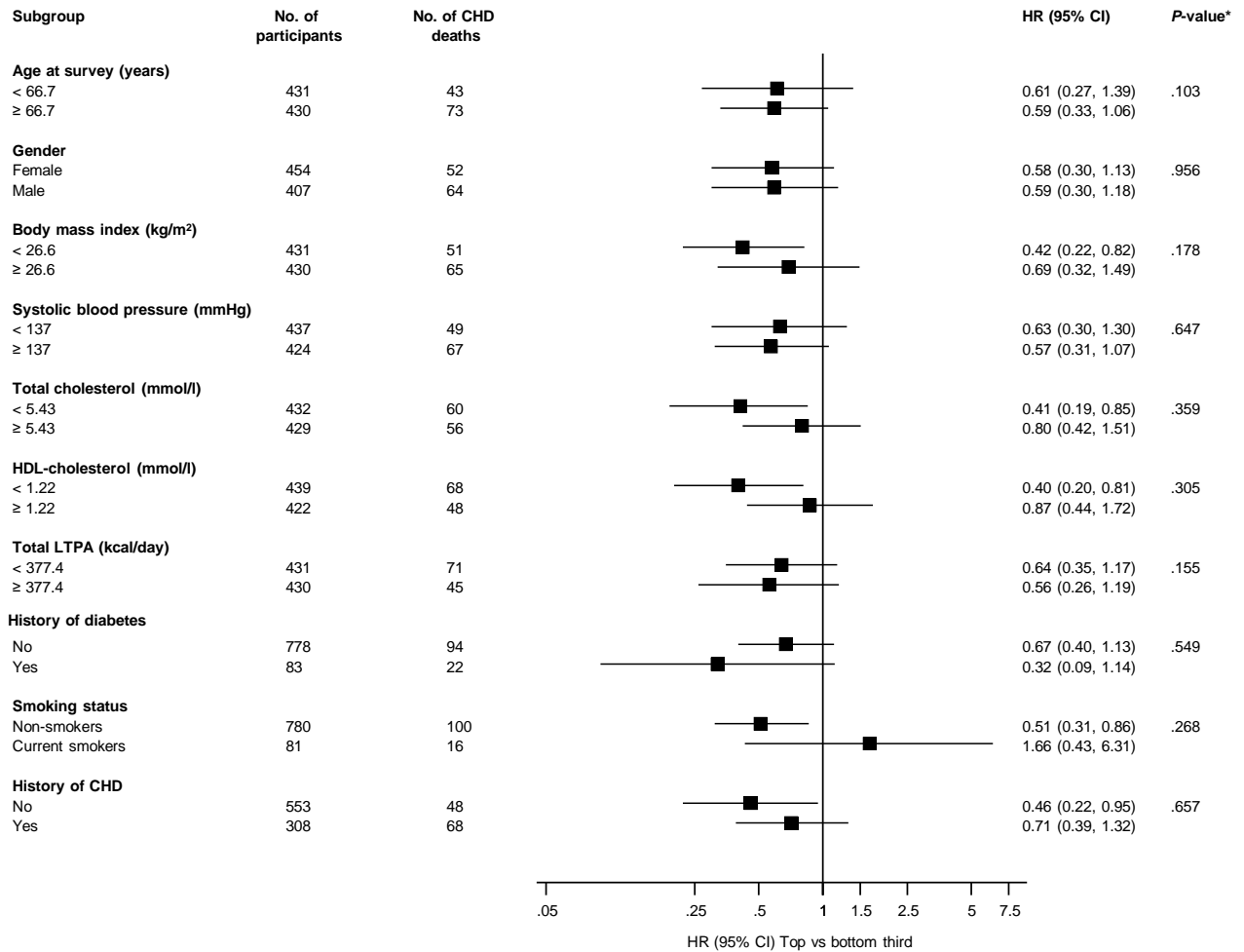
Figure Legends

Figure 1. Hazard ratios for fatal coronary heart disease, fatal cardiovascular disease, and all-cause mortality by quartiles of relative handgrip strength



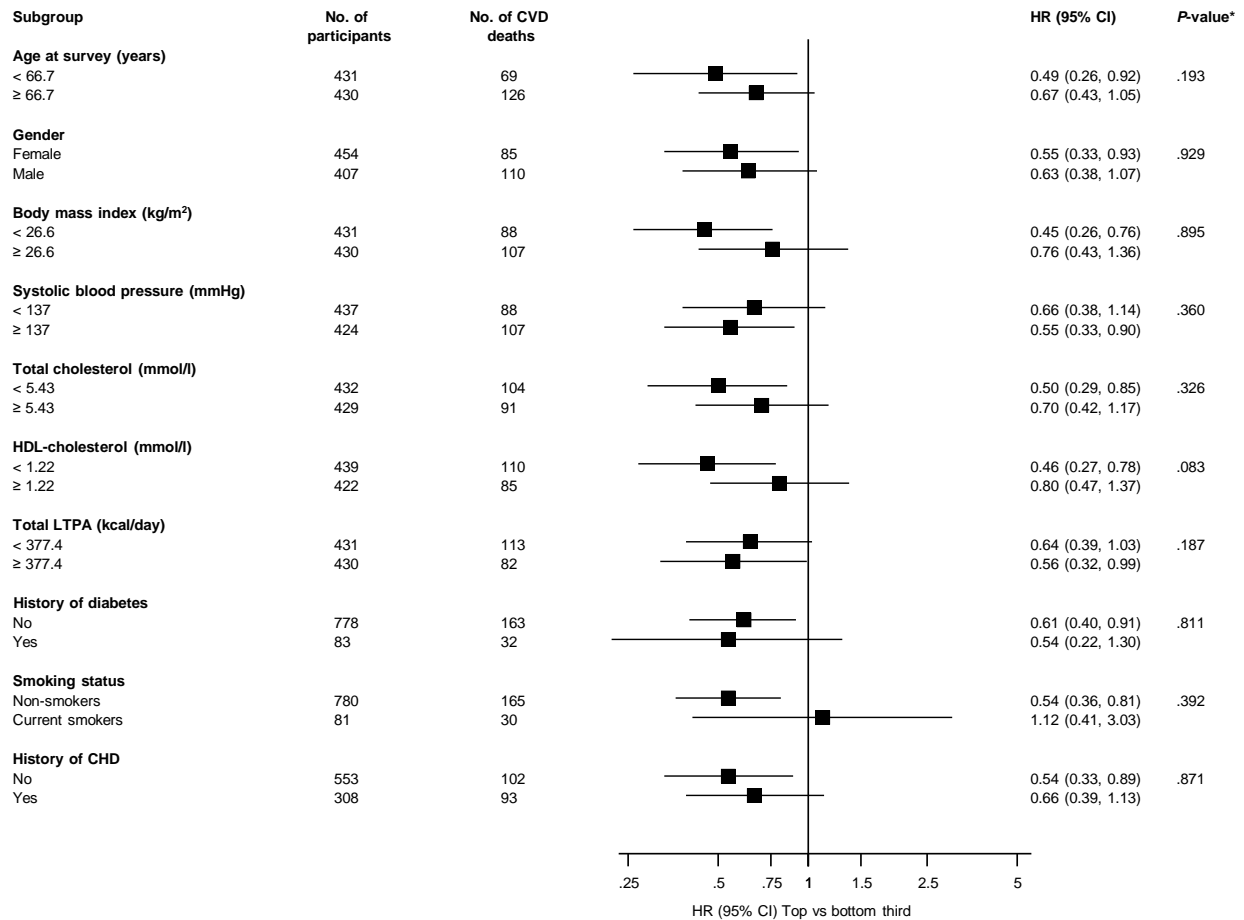
Hazard ratios were adjusted for age, gender, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, smoking status, prevalent coronary heart disease, history of diabetes mellitus, resting heart rate, and physical activity; CHD, coronary heart disease; CVD, cardiovascular disease

Figure 2. Hazard ratios for fatal coronary heart disease by several participant level characteristics



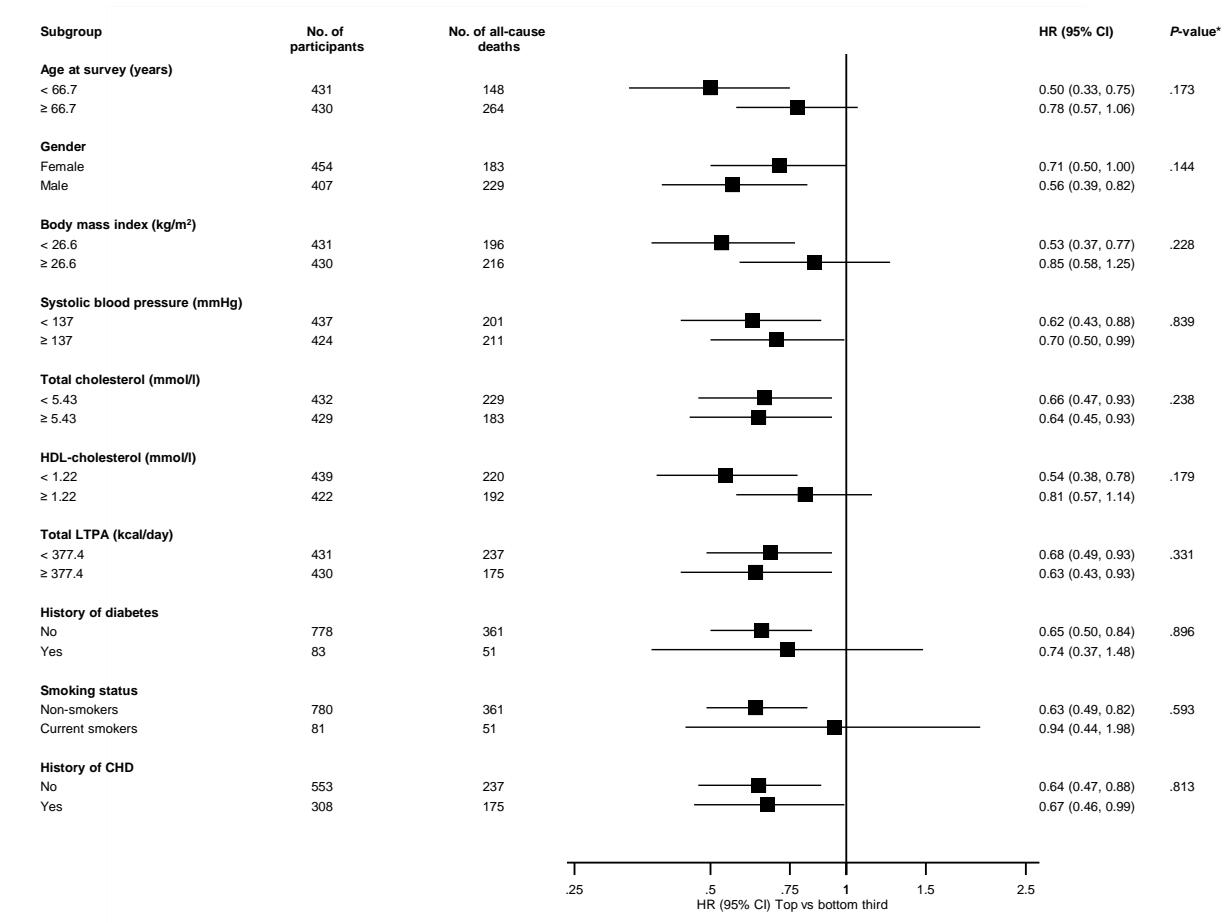
Hazard ratios compared top versus bottom thirds of relative handgrip strength and were adjusted for age, gender, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, smoking status, prevalent coronary heart disease, history of diabetes mellitus, resting heart rate, and physical activity; CHD, coronary heart disease; CI, confidence interval; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; HR, hazard ratio; LTPA, leisure-time physical activity; *, *p*-value for interaction; cut-offs for age, body mass index, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, and total LTPA are based on median values.

Figure 3. Hazard ratios for fatal cardiovascular disease by several participant level characteristics



Hazard ratios compared top versus bottom thirds of relative handgrip strength and were adjusted for age, gender, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, smoking status, prevalent coronary heart disease, history of diabetes mellitus, resting heart rate, and physical activity; CHD, coronary heart disease; CI, confidence interval; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; HR, hazard ratio; LTPA, leisure-time physical activity; *, *p*-value for interaction; cut-offs for age, body mass index, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, and total LTPA are based on median values.

Figure 4. Hazard ratios for all-cause mortality by several participant level characteristics



Hazard ratios compared top versus bottom thirds of relative handgrip strength and were adjusted for age, gender, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, smoking status, prevalent coronary heart disease, history of diabetes mellitus, resting heart rate, and physical activity; CHD, coronary heart disease; CI, confidence interval; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; HR, hazard ratio; LTPA, leisure-time physical activity; *, *p*-value for interaction; cut-offs for age, body mass index, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, and total LTPA are based on median values.

Table 1. Baseline participant characteristics and correlates of relative handgrip strength

Characteristics	Mean (SD), median (IQR), or n (%)	Partial correlation r (95% CI) ^a
Relative handgrip strength (kPa/kg)	1.03 (0.34)	-
<i>Questionnaire/Prevalent conditions</i>		
Age at survey (years)	69 (3)	-0.13 (-0.19, -0.06)*
Males	407 (47.3)	-
History of type 2 diabetes	83 (9.6)	-
Current smokers	81 (9.4)	-
History of CHD	308 (35.8)	-
<i>Physical measurements</i>		
BMI (kg/m ²)	27.9 (4.3)	-0.41 (-0.46, -0.35)***
SBP (mmHg)	138 (18)	0.02 (-0.05, 0.09)
DBP (mmHg)	80 (9)	0.03 (-0.04, 0.10)
Energy expenditure of total LTPA (kcal/day)	377.4 (226.1-646.3)	-0.01 (-0.08, 0.06)
Resting heart rate (bpm)	62.5 (9.8)	0.06 (-0.01, 0.13)
<i>Blood-based markers</i>		
Total cholesterol (mmol/l)	5.44 (0.94)	0.02 (-0.05, 0.08)
HDL-C (mmol/l)	1.24 (0.32)	0.10 (0.03, 0.16)***
Fasting plasma glucose (mmol/l)	5.18 (1.32)	-0.08 (-0.14, -0.01)*
High-sensitivity CRP	1.58 (0.79-3.23)	-0.19 (-0.25, -0.12)***

BMI, body mass index; CHD, coronary heart disease; CI, confidence interval; CRP, C-reactive protein; DBP, diastolic blood pressure; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; IQR, interquartile range; LTPA, leisure-time physical activity; SD, standard deviation; SBP, systolic blood pressure

Table 2. Associations of handgrip strength with fatal coronary heart disease, fatal cardiovascular disease, and all-cause mortality

Handgrip strength (kPa/kg)	Fatal CHD		Fatal CVD		All-cause mortality	
	116 cases		195 cases		412 cases	
	HR (95% CI)	<i>p</i> -value	HR (95% CI)	<i>p</i> -value	HR (95% CI)	<i>p</i> -value
Age- and sex-adjusted						
Per 1 SD increase	0.61 (0.46-0.79)	< 0.001	0.67 (0.54-0.82)	< 0.001	0.79 (0.69-0.91)	< 0.001
Tertile 1 (0.27-0.90)	1 [Reference]		1 [Reference]		1 [Reference]	
Tertile 2 (0.91-1.10)	0.66 (0.43-1.01)	0.057	0.70 (0.51-0.98)	0.035	0.74 (0.59-0.92)	0.008
Tertile 3 (1.11-7.31)	0.51 (0.32-0.83)	0.006	0.55 (0.38-0.79)	0.001	0.64 (0.50-0.82)	< 0.001
Multivariate-adjusted*						
Per 1 SD increase	0.65 (0.49-0.85)	0.002	0.69 (0.56-0.86)	0.001	0.81 (0.70-0.93)	0.003
Tertile 1 (0.27-0.90)	1 [Reference]		1 [Reference]		1 [Reference]	
Tertile 2 (0.91-1.10)	0.68 (0.44-1.05)	0.082	0.70 (0.50-0.97)	0.033	0.74 (0.59-0.93)	0.011
Tertile 3 (1.11-7.31)	0.59 (0.37-0.95)	0.029	0.59 (0.41-0.86)	0.006	0.66 (0.51-0.84)	0.001

CHD, coronary heart disease; CI, confidence interval; CVD, cardiovascular disease; HR, hazard ratio; SD, standard deviation

*, Hazard ratios are adjusted for age, gender, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, smoking status, prevalent coronary heart disease, history of type 2 diabetes mellitus, resting heart rate, and physical activity

Supplementary Material

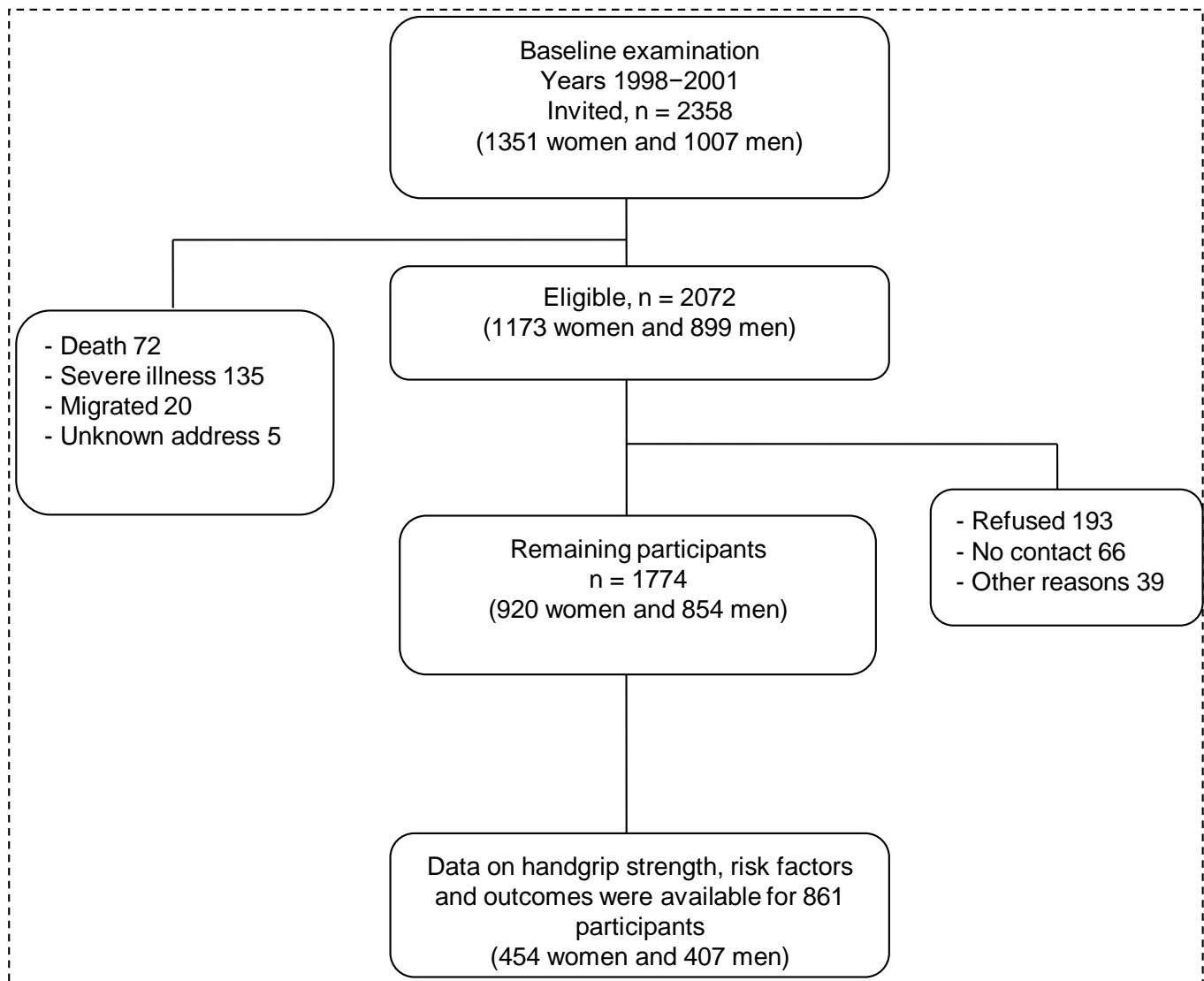
Supplementary Table S1	STROBE 2007 Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of cohort studies
Supplementary Table S2	Participant flow
Supplementary Table S3	Associations of handgrip strength with fatal coronary heart disease, fatal cardiovascular disease, and all-cause mortality on exclusion of the first two years of follow-up

Supplementary Table S1: STROBE 2007 Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of cohort studies

Section/Topic	Item #	Recommendation	Reported on page #
Title and abstract	1	(a) Indicate the study’s design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Page 1
		(b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Page 2
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Page 3
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Page 3
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Study design and population
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Study design and population
Participants	6	(a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up	Study design and population
		(b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed	Study design and population
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Assessment of handgrip strength and relevant risk markers
Data sources/measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	Assessment of handgrip strength and relevant risk markers
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Statistical analysis
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Statistical analysis
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Statistical analysis
Statistical methods	12	(a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Statistical analysis

		(b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Statistical analysis
		(c) Explain how missing data were addressed	Not applicable
		(d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed	Not applicable
		(e) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Statistical analysis
Results			
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	Supplementary Table S3
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Supplementary Table S3
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Supplementary Table S3
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Results; Tables 1
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	
		(c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)	Results
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time	Results
Main results	16	(a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Results; Table 2
		(b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Results; Table 2
		(c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Results; Figure 2-4
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Discussion - Summary of main findings
Limitations			
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Discussion
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Discussion
Other information			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	Acknowledgement

Supplementary Table S2: Participant flow



Supplementary Table S3: Associations of handgrip strength with fatal coronary heart disease, fatal cardiovascular disease, and all-cause mortality on exclusion of the first two years of follow-up

Handgrip strength (kpa/kg)	Fatal CHD		Fatal CVD		All-cause mortality	
	111 cases		187 cases		400 cases	
	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	<i>p</i> -value	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	<i>p</i> -value	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	<i>p</i> -value
Age- and sex-adjusted						
Per 1 SD increase	0.59 (0.45-0.78)	< 0.001	0.66 (0.54-0.81)	< 0.001	0.79 (0.69-0.91)	< 0.001
Tertile 1 (0.27-0.90)	1 [Reference]		1 [Reference]		1 [Reference]	
Tertile 2 (0.91-1.10)	0.63 (0.41-0.98)	0.039	0.67 (0.48-0.94)	0.019	0.73 (0.58-0.92)	0.008
Tertile 3 (1.11-7.31)	0.48 (0.29-0.78)	0.003	0.54 (0.37-0.78)	0.001	0.65 (0.50-0.83)	0.001
Multivariate-adjusted*						
Per 1 SD increase	0.64 (0.48-0.85)	0.002	0.69 (0.55-0.85)	0.001	0.81 (0.70-0.93)	0.004
Tertile 1 (0.27-0.90)	1 [Reference]		1 [Reference]		1 [Reference]	
Tertile 2 (0.91-1.10)	0.65 (0.42-1.01)	0.053	0.66 (0.47-0.93)	0.016	0.73 (0.58-0.92)	0.009
Tertile 3 (1.11-7.31)	0.56 (0.34-0.92)	0.022	0.59 (0.40-0.86)	0.006	0.67 (0.52-0.87)	0.002

CHD, coronary heart disease; CI, confidence interval; CVD, cardiovascular disease; SD, standard deviation

*, Hazard ratios are adjusted for age, gender, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, smoking status, prevalent coronary heart disease, history of type 2 diabetes mellitus, resting heart rate, and physical activity